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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Wheat Ridge Mayor Starker, Buena Vista Town Clerk Barnett named recipients of the 2025 Sam Mamet Good Governance Award**

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**DENVER, Colo. – Wednesday, July 2, 2025** – The Colorado Municipal League (CML) announced at its 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference in Breckenridge that City of Wheat Ridge Mayor Bud Starker and Town of Buena Vista Town Clerk Paula Barnett were named the recipients of the 2025 Sam Mamet Good Governance Award. The award, established in 2019 and named in honor of retired CML Executive Director Sam Mamet, recognizes individuals who exemplify and strive to promote the principles of good governance.

“This year’s class of nominees, and most certainly the recipients, represent the essence of why CML continues the Sam Mamet Good Governance Award,” said Kevin Bommer, CML executive director. “They are true leaders that inspire others and provide shining examples of what it means to practice inclusive governance and civil discourse. Mayor Starker and Paula Barnett are shining examples of how municipal officials can lead with integrity, empathy, and a deep commitment to their communities.”

“I am honored and humbled beyond words, and I now understand how an Oscar award winner feels when surrounded by a room with dedicated colleagues and peers who deserve this award as much, if not more, than I do,” Barnett shared in her acceptance speech. “I certainly had no idea, starting out as Lincoln County Deputy Clerk 30 years ago, that it would lead to standing here today.”

While unable to attend the ceremony, Mayor Bud Starker shared the following in a prepared statement, “There are many here today and throughout this organization who are deserving of this award. I am honored, grateful and humbled to be its recipient. Earlier, in my civic journey, I had the great fortune to work alongside Sam Mamet and see firsthand the positive results of service, respect, and leadership.”

To learn more about the winners and watch videos profiling their achievements, visit <https://www.cml.org/home/publications-news/sam-mamet-good-governance-award>.

The award nominations were submitted by CML members and selected by the CML Executive Board. This year, CML received a total of 34 nominations for 26 unique nominees.

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The following Colorado leaders were also nominated:

- Bruce Bair, Town of Crawford public works director
- Mayor Tara Beiter-Fluhr, City of Sheridan
- Kim Boyd, Town of Kiowa town administrator
- Jonathan Cain, Town of Nederland town administrator
- Cheryl Campbell, Town of Garden City town administrator
- Mayor Ty Coleman, City of Alamosa
- Patrick Davidson, Town of Elizabeth town administrator
- Gigi Dennis, City of Monte Vista city manager
- Harold Dominguez, City of Longmont city manager
- Mayor Will Karspeck, Town of Berthoud
- Chris Kirk, Town of Berthoud town administrator
- Mayor Pro Tem Dan McVey, Town of Springfield
- Stacy Milenski, Town of Rocky Ford city manager
- Timothy M. O'Brien, City and County of Denver auditor
- Mayor Marty Rahl, Town of Rye
- Dave Reynolds, Town of New Castle town administrator
- Mayor Dan Shore, City of Salida
- Cindy Thompkins, Town of Ramah town clerk
- Monty Torres, City of Brush! city administrator
- James R. True, City of Aspen city attorney
- Mayor Scott Turnipseed, Town of Eagle
- Dan Ungerleider, Town of Monument director of planning
- Mercedes Valdez, City of Edgewater council member
- Paul Wisor, Town of Mountain Village town manager

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[Colorado Municipal League](#) (CML) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1923 and represents the interests of 271 cities and towns. For more information on the Colorado Municipal League, please visit [cml.org](#), call 303-831-6411 or stay connected on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

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